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Mr. Walter Pforzheimer  
Office of General Counsel  
Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence  
Draft Reply to Senator Johnson's letter

4 May 1954

Attached, in accordance with your request, is a suggested draft reply to Senator Johnson's letter of 19 April 1954.

Attach: Draft

H. MARSHALL CHADWELL

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SI/JJ:ms (4 May 54)  
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Dear Senator Johnson:

In response to your letter of 19 April 1954, we have reviewed the problem posed by your constituent, Mr. P. D. Hernandez. Of course, you realize that Intelligence cannot state explicitly what it does or does not know. To reassure you, however, and not for passage further, we are not alarmed by the many reports on "sightings" of flying saucers. The information available to us indicates that the largest percentage of all reported sightings have been explained satisfactorily as normal, natural phenomena. In the remaining percentage of sightings, which is very small, the information reported is so lacking in scientific detail as to make their credibility very low.

In light of the above, we suggest that you reply to your constituent without direct reference to this Agency, along the following lines:

"I am very glad to be able to reply to your letter of 12 April 1954 inquiring about flying saucers.

After inquiring in the appropriate quarters in government, I find that many of the books and articles in the public press give incomplete and sometimes non-factual information. I have been assured, furthermore, that we should not become alarmed by such information.

I have been told that a number of books on this subject do indicate that the US Air Force covers the subject of flying saucers, and I suggest that you write USAF if you have further questions." We hope that this information will be of use to you.